



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

October 4, 2002

EA-00-022
EA-01-310

Carolina Power & Light Company
ATTN: Mr. James Scarola
Vice President - Harris Plant
Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant
P. O. Box 165, Mail Code: Zone 1
New Hill, NC 27562-0165

**SUBJECT: SHEARON HARRIS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - NRC SUPPLEMENTAL
INSPECTION REPORT 50-400/02-08**

Dear Mr. Scarola:

On September 6, 2002, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) performed a supplemental inspection associated with a White finding identified in the mitigating systems cornerstone at your Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant. The White finding involved a violation of your fire protection program resulting from a Thermo-Lag fire barrier assembly (wall) which had an indeterminate fire resistance rating. The NRC determined that portions of your corrective actions to resolve this issue were appropriate. However, the NRC noted that your planned corrective actions included the use of local manual actions as opposed to one of the protection methods identified in NRC Position C.5.b.(2) of Branch Technical Position (BTP) CMEB 9.5-1. As a result, the White finding remained open pending further NRC review of your corrective actions and the development of internal NRC inspection guidance in this area. The inspection report documenting this was transmitted to you on September 9, 2002.

Subsequent to the completion of the inspection, a Senior Reactor Analyst evaluated the risk significance of the non-conforming Thermo-Lag barrier taking into consideration your corrective actions accomplished to date. These actions included separating the auxiliary control panel room, containing the Thermo-Lag fire barrier in question, from the B Train switchgear room. This resulted in two separate fire areas, and reduced the ignition frequency of fires capable of challenging the Thermo-Lag barrier by an order of magnitude. This translated into a corresponding reduction in the core damage frequency and reduced the risk significance of the degraded Thermo-Lag barrier to that of a Green finding. Based on this, the White finding will be removed from the NRC performance summary effective the date of this letter. However, Violation (VIO) 50-400/02-08-01: Failure to Implement and Maintain NRC Approved Fire Protection Program Safe Shutdown System Separation Requirements, remains open pending further NRC review of your corrective actions and the development of internal NRC inspection guidance in this area. Please inform us when your corrective actions are sufficiently complete to permit our inspection.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Charles R. Ogle, Chief
Engineering Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-400
License No.: NPF-63

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